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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

J. DOE 1 and J. DOE 2, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

GITHUB, INC., a Delaware corporation; MICROSOFT CORPORATION, a Washington corporation; OPENAI, INC., a Delaware nonprofit corporation; OPENAI, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership; OPENAI GP, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company; OPENAI STARTUP FUND GP I, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company; OPENAI STARTUP FUND I, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership; OPENAI STARTUP FUND MANAGEMENT, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company,

Defendants.

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Case No. 4:22-cv-06823-JST  
 Case No. 4:22-cv-07074-JST

Hon. Jon S. Tigar

**CLASS ACTION**

**DEFENDANTS OPENAI, INC., OPENAI, L.P., OPENAI GP, L.L.C., OPENAI STARTUP FUND GP I, L.L.C., OPENAI STARTUP FUND I, L.P. AND OPENAI STARTUP FUND MANAGEMENT, LLC'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINT**

Date: May 4, 2023  
 Time: 2:00 p.m.  
 Courtroom: 6

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## 1 I. INTRODUCTION

2 Plaintiffs essentially concede that four of their claims should be dismissed, and that a fifth  
3 should be partially dismissed. As to Plaintiffs’ remaining claims, Plaintiffs’ opposition confirms  
4 that dismissal is appropriate. None of Plaintiffs’ cited cases can change the fundamental problem  
5 with Plaintiffs’ claims: That they have not plausibly alleged that Codex or Copilot has ever  
6 output any of Plaintiffs’ code, or that it is reasonably certain that Plaintiffs’ code will be output in  
7 the future. Nor have they plausibly alleged any special relationship or contract between OpenAI  
8 and Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs’ Complaint should therefore be dismissed in its entirety.

## 9 II. ARGUMENT

### 10 A. Plaintiffs Cannot Allege Any Injury-in-Fact to Establish Article III Standing

11 Plaintiffs don’t dispute that they must allege an injury that is “concrete and particularized”  
12 and not “conjectural or hypothetical.” (Pls.’ Opp. (Dkt. No. 67) (“Opp.”) at 4.) But Plaintiffs  
13 haven’t pointed to any allegations in the Complaint that Copilot or Codex reproduced any of *their*  
14 code. (*Id.* at 6-9 (not pointing to any allegations specific to Plaintiffs’ code).) Instead, they argue  
15 that they have shown an “imminent and significant” injury because “it is a virtual certainty” that  
16 their code will be reproduced without copyright notices or attribution at some unspecified point in  
17 the future. (*Id.* at 8.) But nothing in the Complaint suggests that is true.

18 Plaintiffs rely on the “number of times users may use Copilot.” (*Id.*) Given those  
19 numbers, Plaintiffs hypothesize that their code “can be output at any time.” (*Id.*) But that is  
20 speculation, and speculation is insufficient to confer standing. *See Clapper v. Amnesty Int’l USA*,  
21 568 U.S. 409, 414 (2013) (plaintiffs failed to allege standing because a speculative chain of  
22 possibilities based on potential future surveillance was not enough to plausibly allege a “certainly  
23 impending” injury). (*See also* OpenAI’s Mot. (Dkt. No. 53) (“Mot.”) at 5-6 (citing cases).)

24 Plaintiffs also point to their allegations that GitHub announced that “about 1% of the time,  
25 a suggestion [Output] may contain some code snippets longer than ~15-characters that matches  
26 code from the training data” and after enough tries, Plaintiffs’ code “can be output.” (Compl.  
27 ¶ 90 (cleaned up); Opp. at 3.) That only alleges that *some* preexisting code was included in an  
28 output 1% of the time. It doesn’t mean that Copilot (and therefore Codex) is reasonably certain to



1 reproduce *the Plaintiffs’* code—and it is only the Plaintiffs’ code that matters for standing.  
 2 (Mot. 5-6.) Nowhere in the Complaint have Plaintiffs alleged what type of code they have  
 3 published or explained how likely it would be for third-party users of Codex and Copilot to  
 4 generate Plaintiffs’ code as their output. Nor have Plaintiffs alleged that Codex or Copilot is  
 5 equally likely to output all types of code—or, if not, what types of code are more likely to be  
 6 output. Without these facts, Plaintiffs’ purported threat of future harm is insufficient to establish  
 7 that this injury is “certainly impending” or that there is a “substantial risk [] the harm [would]  
 8 occur” to satisfy the injury-in-fact requirement for standing. *See Clapper*, 568 U.S. 409 at  
 9 414 n.5 (holding that plaintiffs lack standing when risk of potential surveillance relied on  
 10 “speculation about the unfettered choices made by independent actors not before the court”)  
 11 (cleaned up); *In re Zappos.com*, 888 F.3d 1020, 1027 (9th Cir. 2018) (stating that plaintiff alleged  
 12 a credible threat of impending harm stemming from the theft of a laptop containing unencrypted  
 13 personal data but that such “threat would have been ‘far less credible’” if plaintiffs “sued based  
 14 on the risk that it would be stolen at some point in the future”).

15 Plaintiffs also argue that they have alleged a concrete injury based on “a common law  
 16 right of authors and creators to maintain control of the fruits of their creative labor.” (Opp. at 5.)  
 17 But common law copyright was long ago preempted by Section 301 of the Copyright Act. *See*  
 18 *Maloney v. T3Media, Inc.*, 853 F.3d 1004, 1010 (9th Cir. 2017) (recognizing that Section 301  
 19 “preempt[s] and abolish[es] any rights under the common law”). Plaintiffs therefore cannot rely  
 20 on common law copyright to establish standing.

21 None of Plaintiffs’ cited cases are to the contrary. (*See* Opp. at 8.) In *In re Facebook,*  
 22 *Inc., Consumer Privacy User Profile Litigation*, the court rejected plaintiffs’ theory of standing  
 23 based on risk of future harm as “too speculative” where plaintiffs alleged that “Facebook’s  
 24 dissemination of their personal information increased the risk that they would become victims of  
 25 identity theft.” 402 F. Supp. 3d 767, 784 (N.D. Cal. 2019). Instead, the court found standing  
 26 based on an injury to plaintiffs’ right to privacy stemming from “Facebook’s widespread  
 27 disclosure of [plaintiffs’] sensitive information” that had been previously shared only with a  
 28 limited audience (plaintiffs’ Facebook “friends”). *Id.* Similarly, the plaintiffs in *In re Apple Inc.*

1 *Device Performance Litigation* did not allege a risk of future harm; rather, plaintiffs alleged that  
 2 all putative class members had already experienced harm in the form of slowed performance on  
 3 their iPhones after Apple pushed software updates to their devices. 50 F.4th 769, 782 (9th Cir.  
 4 2022). Likewise, in *Clemens v. ExecuPharm Inc.*, the court concluded that the plaintiff had  
 5 standing to bring contract and tort claims against her employer for a data breach because there  
 6 was a “substantial risk” of identity theft or fraud when plaintiff had alleged that her data had  
 7 *already* been published on the dark web by a “a known hacking group.” 48 F.4th 146, 158-59 (3d  
 8 Cir. 2022). Here, by contrast, Plaintiffs have not alleged that Copilot or Codex output any of  
 9 Plaintiffs’ personal information. Plaintiffs’ reliance on *In re Sony Gaming Networks and*  
 10 *Customer Data Security Breach Litigation* is also misplaced. In *Sony Gaming Networks*,  
 11 Plaintiffs alleged that their PII was not only collected, but also wrongfully disclosed. 996 F.  
 12 Supp. 2d 942, 961-62 (S.D. Cal. 2014). Here, however, Plaintiffs have not alleged that any of  
 13 their PII has been wrongfully disclosed.

14 Because Plaintiffs have not alleged the type of imminent and concrete injury necessary to  
 15 confer standing, all of their claims should be dismissed.

#### 16 **B. Plaintiffs Should Not Be Permitted to Proceed Anonymously**

17 Plaintiffs do not meet the standard for proceeding anonymously. (*See* Mot. at 6  
 18 (explaining the relevant standard)). In arguing otherwise, Plaintiffs rely on threats received by  
 19 counsel. (Opp. at 10.) While threats of physical harm can justify proceeding anonymously,  
 20 Plaintiffs’ fear of harm must be “reasonabl[e].” *Doe v. Kamehameha Sch./Bernice Pauahi Bishop*  
 21 *Estate*, 596 F.3d 1036, 1044 (9th Cir. 2010). To determine whether anonymity is appropriate,  
 22 courts “view alleged threats in context and determine what the ‘reasonable’ person in the  
 23 plaintiffs’ situation would fear.” *Id.* Plaintiffs have not shown such reasonable fears here.

24 The Ninth Circuit’s opinion in *Kamehameha Schools* is instructive. There, the Ninth  
 25 Circuit examined whether threats of physical violence to Doe children justified allowing them to  
 26 proceed anonymously. 596 F.3d at 1042. Despite concluding that the statements made were  
 27 “undoubtedly severe,” the court found the plaintiffs’ fears were unreasonable. *Id.* at 1042-45. In  
 28 so holding, the court recognized that “many times people say things anonymously on the internet

1 that they would never say in another context and have no intention of carrying out.” *Id.* at 1045;  
 2 *see also B.L. v. Fetherman*, No. CV223471JMVJSA, 2023 WL 1818402, at \*4 (D.N.J. Feb. 8,  
 3 2023) (“vague references to some members of the public’s ‘pushback’ and ‘anger’ with Plaintiffs  
 4 for filing th[e] lawsuit amounts to mere frustration rather than a credible risk of harm”).  
 5 Similarly, Plaintiffs have not demonstrated that their fears are reasonable here.

### 6 **C. Plaintiffs Fail to Satisfy the Notice Requirement of Rule 8(a)**

7 Plaintiffs do not dispute that they must allege facts particularized to each defendant, rather  
 8 than lump them all together. (*See Opp.* at 11.) Instead, they contend that they have met their  
 9 burden by pleading an agency relationship. (*Id.* at 12.) They haven’t: Plaintiffs’ conclusory  
 10 statements about the “control embodied in the corporate structure” and the “management and  
 11 direction of OpenAI” (*id.*) are insufficient to establish agency. *See Rogers v. Postmates Inc.*,  
 12 No. 19-cv-05619-TSH, 2020 WL 1032153, \*4 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 3, 2020) (“nebulous allegations”  
 13 that “Defendant, either directly or through one or more intermediaries acting as its agent(s) or  
 14 sub-agent(s)” sent a text “do not support a plausible inference that [defendant] exercised any  
 15 control of the sender of the text necessary to establish an agency relationship”); *Ewing v. Encor*  
 16 *Solar, LLC*, No. 18-cv-2247-CAB-MDD, 2019 WL 277386, at \*7 (S.D. Cal. Jan. 22,  
 17 2019) (plaintiff failed to satisfy pleading standards where the complaint made “confusing  
 18 allegations regarding the role each of the defendants played in the purported scheme, often using  
 19 defendants’ names interchangeably and switching the theory of control” and that “such  
 20 allegations are insufficient to establish vicarious liability”). Claims against the OpenAI Entities  
 21 other than OpenAI LP and OpenAI, Inc. should be dismissed on that basis alone.

### 22 **D. The Copyright Act Preempts Several State Law Causes of Action**

23 Plaintiffs do not separately address OpenAI’s preemption argument, and instead, refer to  
 24 their Opposition to Defendants GitHub and Microsoft’s (collectively, “Microsoft”) Motion to  
 25 Dismiss to argue that their state and common law claims are not preempted by the Copyright Act.  
 26 (*Opp.* at 20-21 (referencing Pls.’ *Opp.* to Microsoft Mot. to Dismiss (Dkt. No. 66) (“Microsoft  
 27 *Opp.*”).)) Similarly, OpenAI refers to the preemption arguments made in Microsoft’s Reply.  
 28

**E. Plaintiffs Fail to Plead a DMCA Claim Under Section 1202(b)**

**1. Plaintiffs Have Not Identified The Works In Which They Have An Interest From Which CMI Was Removed, Or Identify What the Removed CMI Was**

Plaintiffs spend much of their opposition arguing that a 1202 claim is different from a copyright infringement claim, and that a copyright registration is not required for DMCA claims. (Opp. at 13-15, 19.) That is true, but Plaintiffs still must identify some work in which *they* have some interest from which CMI was supposedly removed, as well as the CMI at issue. (Mot. at 10-11). *See also* 17 U.S.C. § 1202(c) (defining CMI as “information conveyed in connection with copies or phonorecords of *a work*”) (emphasis added); *Free Speech Sys., LLC v. Menzel*, 390 F. Supp. 3d 1162, 1175 (N.D. Cal. 2019) (dismissing DMCA claim and finding copyright owner failed to provide “any facts to identify which photographs had CMI removed or to describe what the removed or altered CMI was”). Plaintiffs haven’t done so. The paragraphs that Plaintiffs cite from the Complaint (Opp. at 15) generally list available licenses on GitHub (Compl. ¶ 34, n.4), state in conclusory manner that a Codex output does not include a Copyright Notice or License Terms (*id.* ¶ 56), and discuss code from a textbook that does not belong to a named Plaintiff (*id.* ¶ 77). Allegations regarding other peoples’ code are insufficient to state a DMCA claim. *Free Speech Sys.*, 390 F. Supp. 3d at 1175.

Plaintiffs also refer to the section of their Opposition on standing to argue that whether Plaintiffs have identified the relevant work from which CMI was removed is the “incorrect inquiry.” (Opp. at 19.) But even if Plaintiffs had adequately alleged the type of injury that confers Article III standing (which they haven’t), Plaintiffs have not shown that that would be enough under the DMCA. (*See id.* at 4-9 (citing no DMCA Section 1202 cases in which plaintiffs did not identify specific works)<sup>1</sup>.) For example, Plaintiffs claim that they have alleged standing

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<sup>1</sup> The vast majority of cases Plaintiffs cite in Section III.A of their Opposition do not pertain to the DMCA. *See I.C. v. Zynga, Inc.*, 600 F. Supp. 3d 1034 (N.D. Cal. 2022) (not DMCA case); *Spokeo, Inc. v. Robins*, 578 U.S. 330 (2016) (same); *Tenn. Elec. Power Co. v. Tenn. Valley Auth.*, 306 U.S. 118 (1939) (same); *Uzuegbunam v. Preczewski*, 141 S. Ct. 792 (2021) (same); *Jacobsen v. Katzer*, 535 F.3d 1373 (Fed. Cir. 2008) (same); *Linda R.S. v. Richard D.*, 410 U.S. 614 (1973) (same); *In re Facebook*, 402 F. Supp. 3d at 786 (same); *Krottner v. Starbucks Corp.*, 628 F.3d 1139 (9th Cir. 2010) (same); *In re Apple*, 50 F.4th at 781-82 (same); *Clemens v. ExecuPharm*

1 by pointing to potential deprivation of “attribution . . . future career opportunities and increasing  
 2 reputation and authority of the author.” (*Id.* at 6.) The injury contemplated by the DMCA,  
 3 however, is not to a plaintiff’s *reputation*, but to *the work*—*i.e.*, removal or alteration of CMI that  
 4 will induce, enable, facilitate, or conceal an *infringement of copyright*. *Cf. Alan Ross Mach. Corp.*  
 5 *v. Machinio Corp.*, No. 17-CV-3569, 2019 WL 1317664, at \*4 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 22, 2019) (granting  
 6 motion to dismiss because plaintiff failed to allege injury associated with violation of DMCA,  
 7 instead alleging only “confusion in the marketplace”).

8 Plaintiffs must therefore allege the particular work from which CMI was supposedly  
 9 removed, and they haven’t done that. Plaintiffs do assert in their brief that “Codex often  
 10 reproduces exact copies of Plaintiffs’ code.” (Opp. at 15-16.) But Plaintiffs have not identified *in*  
 11 *their Complaint* a single instance in which Codex distributed any copies of Plaintiffs’ works.  
 12 What matters is the Plaintiffs’ allegations in their Complaint, not their lawyer’s argument in their  
 13 briefs. Because Plaintiffs cannot point to any allegation that Codex reproduces the Plaintiffs’  
 14 code, their new argument in opposition cannot save them from dismissal. *Cook v. City of*  
 15 *Fremont*, No. 20-CV-02704-JCS, 2020 WL 6318712, at \*8 n.2 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 28, 2020) (“The  
 16 Court may not consider facts asserted for the first time in Cook’s opposition brief.”).

## 17 **2. Plaintiffs Cannot Meet 1202(b)’s “Double-Scienter” Requirement**

18 Plaintiffs do not dispute that they must allege both that OpenAI (1) intentionally removed  
 19 or altered CMI or distributed CMI knowing that the CMI has been removed or altered *and* (2) did  
 20 so “knowing, or . . . having reasonable grounds to know, that it will induce, enable, facilitate, or  
 21 conceal an infringement.” (Opp. at 16-17, 19-20.) *See* 17 U.S.C. § 1202(b)(3). Plaintiffs have

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23 *Inc.*, 48 F.4th 146 (3d Cir. 2022) (same); *In re iPhone Application Litig.*, No. 11-MD-02250-  
 24 LHK, 2011 WL 4403963, at \*4 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 20, 2011) (same). Only two cases pertain to the  
 25 DMCA, but in both, unlike here, the plaintiffs identified their specific copyrighted works from  
 26 which CMI was allegedly removed. *See Jacobsen v. Katzer*, 609 F. Supp. 2d 925, 934 (N.D. Cal.  
 27 2009) (plaintiff “allege[d] that the information contained in the JMRI Project Decoder Definition  
 28 Files constituted ‘copyright management information’ . . . and that by removing the information  
 and making copies of the files, Defendants violated 17 U.S.C. § 1201(b)”)”; *Ubiquiti Networks,*  
*Inc. v. Cambium Networks, Inc.*, No. 18 C 5369, 2019 WL 2208435, at \*3 (N.D. Ill. May 22,  
 2019) (plaintiff identified copyrighted works as Ubiquiti’s M-series firmware and court still  
 dismissed complaint under Rule 12(b)(6) for failure to provide defendants with adequate notice).

1 not plausibly alleged either prong of the DMCA’s scienter requirement.

2 As to OpenAI’s knowledge that CMI is removed (the first scienter requirement), Plaintiffs  
 3 rely on unfounded *inferences* of knowledge drawn from a GitHub blog post reporting that 1% of  
 4 the time, Copilot (and therefore Codex) generates snippets of code similar to publicly available  
 5 code that it learned from—and did so without generating copyright notices or open source license  
 6 terms. (Opp. at 19-20.) But even that blog post contradicts Plaintiffs’ claim that OpenAI “knew  
 7 that *each time* Copilot was being used, it was reproducing copied code without CMI.” (*Id.* at 20  
 8 (emphasis added).) In any event, as discussed in OpenAI’s Motion, Plaintiffs point only to  
 9 Codex’s abilities to generate common textbook programming functions that Plaintiffs have not  
 10 alleged are protectible expression (*i.e.*, not merger or fair use) and to which Plaintiffs do not own  
 11 the copyrights. (Mot. at 11-12.) OpenAI had no reason to know of any substantial risk of  
 12 copyright infringement or of any reasonably certain future infringement of Plaintiffs’ works.

13 As to OpenAI’s grounds to know that Codex or Copilot would “induce, enable, facilitate,  
 14 or conceal” copyright infringement (the second scienter requirement), Plaintiffs point to GitHub  
 15 Copilot Terms stating that “GitHub does not claim any rights in Suggestions, and [users] retain  
 16 ownership of and responsibility for [their] Code, including Suggestions,” which Plaintiffs assert  
 17 induces infringement. (Opp. at 16-17.) But Plaintiffs have not plausibly alleged that those terms  
 18 are attributable to OpenAI, nor have they alleged copyright infringement at all. Furthermore,  
 19 under Section 1202(b), it must be the removal or alteration of CMI that will “induce, enable,  
 20 facilitate, or conceal” copyright infringement, not a provision of terms of service.

21 Moreover, Plaintiffs do not allege a substantial risk of copyright infringement. A general  
 22 possibility of encouraging infringement by removing CMI doesn’t meet Section 1202(b)’s second  
 23 scienter requirement. *See Stevens v. CoreLogic, Inc.*, 899 F.3d 666, 673-74 (9th Cir. 2018) (a  
 24 mere showing of CMI removal, leading to the general possibility that an infringer could use the  
 25 photos undetected, is insufficient because “Section 1202(b) must have a more specific application  
 26 than the universal possibility of encouraging infringement”); *Victor Elias Photography, LLC v.*  
 27 *Ice Portal, Inc.*, 43 F.4th 1313, 1325 (11th Cir. 2022), *cert. denied*, 143 S. Ct. 736 (2023) (citing  
 28 *Stevens*, affirming summary judgment that plaintiff failed to meet burden of coming forward with



1 sufficient evidence demonstrating § 1202(b)'s second scienter requirement).

2 Plaintiffs cite *GC2 v. International Game Technology, IGT*, 391 F. Supp. 3d 828 (N.D. Ill.  
3 2019), as an example of a case with “similar allegations” that were deemed “sufficient under  
4 Rule 8.” (Opp. at 17.) But in *GC2*, “*each time* [defendants] updated or launched a game . . . they  
5 reuploaded the *entire* game library thereby causing the unlawfully removed or manipulated [CMI]  
6 to again be distributed to the public.” 391 F.3d at 842 (emphasis added). Here, unlike in *GC2*,  
7 the entirety of Codex’s training data is not reproduced each time there is an output. In fact,  
8 Plaintiffs have not shown that their particular works have ever been or are reasonably certain to  
9 be reproduced by OpenAI, let alone reproduced with CMI removed.

10 Plaintiffs’ other cited cases are also of no help. (Opp. at 14-15.) *MDY Industries, LLC v.*  
11 *Blizzard Entertainment, Inc.*, 629 F.3d 928 (9th Cir. 2010), involved Section 1201 (circumvention  
12 of copyright protection systems) and not Section 1202, which is at issue here. *See* 629 F.3d at  
13 935. Section 1201, unlike Section 1202, does not require that a violation be in furtherance of  
14 copyright infringement. *Murphy v. Millennium Radio Grp. LLC*, 650 F.3d 295, 302 n.8 (3rd Cir.  
15 2011) (“However, unlike § 1201, § 1202 applies only when a defendant knows or has reasonable  
16 grounds to know that the removal will ‘induce, enable, facilitate, or conceal’ an infringement.”).  
17 Plaintiffs cite *Diamondback Industries, Inc. v. Repeat Precision, LLC*, No. 4:18-CV-902-A, 2019  
18 WL 5842756 (N.D. Tex. Nov. 7, 2019) for the proposition that a Section 1202 claim is not an  
19 action for copyright infringement. (Opp. at 15.) OpenAI agrees; a claim under Section 1202 is a  
20 distinct claim, with distinct elements, from a claim for copyright infringement. Plaintiffs have not  
21 sufficiently pled these distinct elements. (Mot. at 9-12.) Plaintiffs also cite *Murphy* to argue that  
22 fair use is not a defense to a DMCA claim. (Opp. at 14-15.) Under *Murphy*, however, a  
23 defendant intending to aid fair use would *not* violate Section 1202 because the defendant would  
24 not have the requisite intent to “induce, enable, facilitate, or conceal an infringement.” 17 U.S.C.  
25 § 1202(b)(3). And the appellate court in *Murphy* made clear that “those intending to make fair  
26 use of a copyrighted work are unlikely to be liable under § 1202.” *Murphy*, 650 F.3d at 302 n.8.

### 27 **3. Plaintiffs Have Failed to Allege Removal from Identical Works**

28 In response to OpenAI’s authority from the Ninth Circuit that they must allege removal of

1 CMI from identical copies (Mot. 9-10), Plaintiffs cite only to out-of-circuit cases that do not  
 2 support their position (Opp. at 17-18). *See Bounce Exch., Inc. v. Zeus Enter., Ltd.*,  
 3 No. 15-cv-3268 (DLC), 2015 WL 8579023 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 9, 2015) (addressing whether terms  
 4 appearing in source code were CMI, not whether removal from non-identical copies falls under  
 5 § 1202); *ICONICS, Inc. v. Massaro*, 192 F. Supp. 3d 254 (D. Mass. 2016) (addressing whether  
 6 source code headers were CMI, not whether copy must be identical). Plaintiffs claim, for  
 7 example, that GC2 “rejected” OpenAI’s argument. (Opp. at 18.) But it didn’t. In GC2, the  
 8 artwork at issue was used “in its entirety.” 391 F. Supp. 3d at 843-44. Indeed, the GC2 court  
 9 explicitly distinguished *Fischer v. Forrest*, 286 F. Supp. 3d 590 (S.D.N.Y. 2018), and *Faulkner*  
 10 *Press, LLC v. Class Notes, LLC*, 756 F. Supp. 2d 1352 (N.D. Fla. 2010), two cases in which  
 11 courts found no DMCA violation as a matter of law because the allegedly violative materials  
 12 reproduced only portions of the protected works. GC2, 391 F. Supp. 3d at 843-44. Here, similar  
 13 to *Fischer* and *Faulkner*, Plaintiffs point only to non-protectible snippets of code that have  
 14 allegedly been copied and concede that Copilot does not generate identical copies. (See Mot. at  
 15 10.) Plaintiffs have pled themselves out of court; their cited cases do not show otherwise.

## 16 **F. Plaintiffs’ Remaining State Law Claims Fail**

### 17 **1. Plaintiffs’ Breach of Contract Claim Fails**

18 The Opposition recites the elements of a breach of contract claim, but it does not point to  
 19 any factual allegations that satisfy its pleading obligations.

20 First, rather than address OpenAI Entities’ actual position that Plaintiffs have not pled  
 21 which contract and which terms Defendants supposedly breached (Mot. at 13-14), Plaintiffs argue  
 22 that Defendants “do not dispute that the open-source licenses constitute a contract.” (Microsoft  
 23 Opp. at 19.) But whether the open-source licenses *could* constitute a contract is beside the point.  
 24 As outlined in OpenAI’s Motion, the Complaint vaguely alleges that Plaintiffs offer code under  
 25 various licenses and appends eleven of the most common open-source licenses. (Mot. at 14.) But  
 26 Plaintiffs never allege *which* license (if any) was breached, as required to state a claim.

27 Plaintiffs’ cited authority does not say otherwise. (Microsoft Opp. at 19.) The court in  
 28 *Software Freedom Conservancy, Inc. v. Vizio, Inc.*, No. 821CV01943JLSKES, 2022 WL



1 1527518, at \*1 (C.D. Cal. May 13, 2022) (“*SFC*”), for example, found that the plaintiffs’ breach  
 2 of contract claim was not preempted by the Copyright Act and granted plaintiffs’ motion to  
 3 remand. Nowhere did the court address the sufficiency of plaintiffs’ breach of contract claim at  
 4 the pleading stage. *SFC* therefore does not establish that Plaintiffs have pled facts sufficient to  
 5 allege the existence of a contract with OpenAI simply because the Complaint refers to licenses.

6 Second, Plaintiffs haven’t pled the contractual provisions that OpenAI breached. Instead,  
 7 Plaintiffs allege generally that the “[m]ost common open-source licenses require attribution of the  
 8 author, notice of their copyright, and a copy of the license,” that all of “the Suggested Licenses  
 9 [appended to the Complaint] include these requirements,” and that Defendants, collectively, have  
 10 violated those requirements. (Microsoft Opp. at 12, citing Compl. ¶ 64.) While Plaintiffs attach  
 11 various open-source licenses to the Complaint, they do not say which allegations refer to which  
 12 license. Nor do Plaintiffs “specify the exact terms” of each “agreement.” See *McAfee v. Francis*,  
 13 No. 5:11-CV-00821-LHK, 2011 WL 3293759, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 1, 2011). Plaintiffs’ blanket  
 14 allegations do not state a claim for breach of contract against OpenAI. See *McAfee*, at 2011 WL  
 15 3293759, at \*2 (dismissing breach of contract claim because “[w]ithout pleading the essential  
 16 terms of each agreement and more specific allegations as to breach, Plaintiffs fail to state breach  
 17 of contract claims.”); *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 n.3 (2007) (“Rule 8(a)(2) still  
 18 requires a ‘showing,’ rather than a blanket assertion”).

## 19 **2. Plaintiffs Have Failed to State a Claim for Unjust Enrichment**

20 Plaintiffs argue that unjust enrichment is a standalone claim and that the Complaint  
 21 sufficiently alleges the “benefits [obtained] from [OpenAI’s] disregard of Plaintiff’s licenses  
 22 through Copilot” and lack of “adequate remedy at law.” (Opp. at 24.) As explained in OpenAI’s  
 23 opening brief (Mot. at 17), courts construe unjust enrichment claims as a “quasi-contract claim  
 24 for restitution,” not as a standalone cause of action. *Astiana v. Hain Celestial Grp., Inc.*, 783 F.3d  
 25 753, 762 (9th Cir. 2015).<sup>2</sup> But even if unjust enrichment is a cause of action, Plaintiffs have not

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
 27 <sup>2</sup> To the extent *ESG Capital Partners, L.P. v. Stratos*, 828 F.3d 1023, 1038 (9th Cir. 2016), and  
 28 *Bruton v. Gerber Products Co.*, 703 Fed. App’x 468, 470 (9th Cir. 2017), can be read to  
 recognize a cause of action for unjust enrichment separate from a quasi-contract theory, other

1 plausibly alleged it. First, “under California law, unjust enrichment claims cannot proceed when  
 2 the parties have a valid contract regarding the same subject matter.” *Hameed v. IHOP*  
 3 *Franchising LLC*, 520 Fed. App’x 520, 522 (9th Cir. 2013) (affirming dismissal of plaintiff’s  
 4 unjust enrichment claim). Accordingly, while plaintiffs “may plead inconsistent claims that  
 5 allege both the *existence* of an enforceable agreement and the *absence* of an enforceable  
 6 agreement,” plaintiffs “are precluded from asserting a quasi-contract claim under the theory of  
 7 unjust enrichment” where “plaintiffs’ breach of contract claim plead[s] the existence of an  
 8 enforceable agreement and their unjust enrichment claim d[oes] not deny the existence or  
 9 enforceability of that agreement.” *Klein v. Chevron U.S.A., Inc.*, 202 Cal. App. 4th 1342, 1389-  
 10 90 (2012); *see also Cheramie v. HBB LLC*, 545 Fed. App’x 626, 628 (9th Cir. 2013) (plaintiff had  
 11 not pled unjust enrichment “because he does not dispute that a valid contract was formed”).  
 12 Here, Plaintiffs have not denied the existence or enforceability of their licenses, and they  
 13 therefore have not stated an unjust enrichment claim. (*See* Compl. ¶¶ 200-206.)

14 Second, Plaintiffs have not satisfied their own standard. They claim that they must plead  
 15 only that OpenAI “received and unjustly retained a benefit at the plaintiff’s expense.” (Microsoft  
 16 Opp. at 15 (quoting *ESG Capital*, 828 F.3d at 1038).) The only allegation they point to in support  
 17 of their claim that OpenAI received a benefit is Paragraph 207 of the Complaint, which states in  
 18 full: “GitHub and OpenAI derive profit or other benefits from removal of attribution, copyright  
 19 notices, and license terms from Licensed Materials and reselling it as Output through Copilot.”<sup>3</sup>  
 20 (*Id.*) But Plaintiffs have not alleged any *facts* to identify what the supposed profit or other  
 21 benefits are, falling short of their burden to plausibly allege a claim. *See Bell Atl.*, 550 U.S. at  
 22 555 (“Factual allegations must be enough to raise a right to relief above the speculative level” and  
 23

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24 cases (including an unpublished Ninth Circuit case) have continued to hold the opposite. *See*  
 25 *Baiul-Farina v. Lemire*, 804 F. App’x 533, 537 (9th Cir. 2020) (“Unjust enrichment is not a cause  
 26 of action under California law.”) (cleaned up); *Davidson v. Sprout Foods Inc.*, No. 22-cv-01050-  
 27 RS, 2022 WL 2668481, at \*6 (N.D. Cal. July 11, 2022); *Crown Cell Inc. v. Ecovacs Robotics, Inc.*,  
 28 No. 21-cv-07890-SI, 2022 WL 17082670, at \*4 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 18, 2022); *Sanchez v. Nuture,*  
*Inc.*, No. 21-cv-08566-EJD, 2022 WL 4097337, at \*8 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 27, 2022).

<sup>3</sup> Plaintiffs mistakenly cite Paragraph 203. (Opp. at 24.) The correct citation should be to Paragraph 207 of the operative Complaint.

1 “a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not do.”).

### 2 **3. Plaintiffs Have Failed to State an Unfair Competition Claim**

3 Plaintiffs do not dispute that if their DMCA and other statutory claims fail, so too does  
 4 their unfair competition claim. (*See* Microsoft Opp. at 17.) Instead, Plaintiffs focus only on  
 5 OpenAI’s arguments that they do not have standing to bring a UCL claim because they do not  
 6 lack an adequate remedy at law. (Opp. at 25; *see also* Microsoft Opp. at 17.) To show an  
 7 inadequate remedy at law, Plaintiffs point to a single statement that generally alleges that their  
 8 injury “cannot fully be compensated or measured in money.” (Compl. ¶ 210; *see also* Opp. at  
 9 25.) This general allegation is insufficient to state a claim for relief under the UCL. *See*  
 10 *Silvercrest Realty, Inc. v. Great Am. E&S Ins. Co.*, No. SACV 11-01197-CJC(ANx), 2012 WL  
 11 13028094, at \*2 (C.D. Cal. Apr. 4, 2012) (concluding that plaintiff’s general allegation that “it  
 12 ‘has no adequate remedy at law’” was insufficient).

### 13 **4. Plaintiffs Fail to State a Claim for Negligence**

14 Plaintiffs have not stated a claim for negligence for negligent handling of personal data.  
 15 Plaintiffs do not dispute that they have made the data at issue available *to the public*. (Opp. at  
 16 21.) Instead, Plaintiffs assert that because GitHub labels any “files [users] upload to [its] service”  
 17 as “personal data” under its privacy policy, a legal duty to prevent unauthorized access to  
 18 “personal data” arises (presumably, even if that personal data is already public). (*Id.*)

19 As Plaintiffs’ own cases recognize, a duty of care to prevent unauthorized access by third  
 20 parties extends only to users who share private, and often sensitive, personal information. It  
 21 would be contrary to California law to expand the scope of this duty to information already  
 22 available to the public. For example, in *Witriol v. LexisNexis Group*, on which Plaintiffs rely, the  
 23 court ruled that defendants owed plaintiffs a duty of care to prevent unauthorized access to  
 24 consumer reports and credit information. No. 05-CV-02392-MJJ, 2006 WL 4725713, at \*1,  
 25 8 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 10, 2006). Similarly, *Bass v. Facebook, Inc.*, another case cited by Plaintiffs,  
 26 held that Facebook owed its users a duty of care because “some of the information [published on  
 27 Facebook] was private, and plaintiff plausibly placed trust in Facebook to employ appropriate  
 28 data security.” 394 F. Supp. 3d 1024, 1039 (N.D. Cal. 2019). Likewise, in *In re Sony*, the court

1 found that defendant owed a legal duty to safeguard consumer information where personal  
 2 identifying information, including names, mailing addresses, email addresses, birthdates, credit  
 3 and debit card information, and login credentials, was accessed by unauthorized parties because  
 4 consumers entrusted this information to defendant as part of a commercial transaction. 996 F.  
 5 Supp. 2d at 955, 966. Plaintiffs have not alleged sufficient facts to show that data of a private  
 6 nature has been disclosed through Codex or Copilot.

7 In addition, Plaintiffs essentially concede that they have failed to allege any redressable  
 8 injuries, aside from economic loss: the Opposition does not even address OpenAI's arguments  
 9 regarding Plaintiffs' purported loss of control over identity, lost time, threat of future harm, and  
 10 privacy injuries. (*See* Mot. at 23; Opp. at 21-23.) Plaintiffs argue that the economic loss rule  
 11 does not apply because OpenAI supposedly has a "special relationship" to the Plaintiffs. (Opp. at  
 12 23.) But Plaintiffs have neither cited authority for finding a special relationship under these  
 13 circumstances, nor plausibly alleged that the balance of the six *J'Aire* factors supports the  
 14 existence of such a relationship. (*Id.*) *See J'Aire Corp. v. Gregory*, 24 Cal. 3d 799, 804 (1979).

15 First, Plaintiffs have not satisfied the first factor because they have not alleged that they  
 16 shared PII with any OpenAI Entity. *Huynh v. Quora, Inc.*, 508 F. Supp. 3d 633, 655 (N.D. Cal.  
 17 2020) (collecting cases) (first factor is met when plaintiffs share personal data with a company  
 18 with the understanding that the company will protect that data.); *see also id.* at 656 ("entrusting  
 19 PII to a company establishes a 'transaction intended to affect the plaintiff'") (quoting *J'Aire*,  
 20 24 Cal. 3d at 804). Second, aside from conclusory allegations about alleged lost time to "cure  
 21 [the] harm to their privacy," Plaintiffs fail to demonstrate how it is foreseeable that they would  
 22 incur any *privacy* harm, given that their code was publicly available online. (*See* Opp. at 23  
 23 (arguing instead that they would suffer harm if their licenses were not honored, without  
 24 identifying any harm to privacy)). Third, with respect to the "degree of certainty that the plaintiff  
 25 suffered injury," Plaintiffs offer only generic allegations about lost time in the Complaint and  
 26 conclusory statements that their "injur[ies] would not happen unless [OpenAI] chose to train their  
 27 AIs on Plaintiffs' code." (*See* Opp. at 23.) Fourth, with respect to the closeness of the connection  
 28 between the *defendant's* conduct and the injury suffered, Plaintiffs assert that this factor is met

1 because “*Defendants themselves* were the ones to offer the licenses.” (*Id.* (emphasis added).)  
 2 Yet, as the Complaint makes clear, the Suggested Licenses were suggested by GitHub, not any  
 3 OpenAI Entity. (Compl. ¶¶ 19-20.) Plaintiffs overlook the fifth factor entirely (the moral blame  
 4 attached to the defendant’s conduct). (*See* Opp. at 23.) Under the sixth factor (the policy of  
 5 preventing future harm), courts find this factor weighs in favor of a special relationship in a data  
 6 breach case because it “would encourage companies . . . to take better care to safeguard their  
 7 users’ PII,” and California and federal consumer protection statutes also reflect the same goal.  
 8 *Huynh*, 508 F. Supp. 3d at 658 (cleaned up). Plaintiffs contend that this factor is “clearly  
 9 implicated” given “the rampant growth of AI products based on similar training.” (Opp. at 23.)  
 10 Yet Plaintiffs do not provide any factual support to establish that any OpenAI Entity has disclosed  
 11 any PII that would implicate the policy of encouraging better safeguards for users’ PII, as the  
 12 Complaint only references code made publicly available. (Compl. ¶¶ 19-20.)

13 Plaintiffs thus have not alleged that the *J’Aire* factors support the existence of a special  
 14 relationship sufficient to overcome the economic loss doctrine. This claim should be dismissed.

### 15 **5. Plaintiffs Fail to Plead a Civil Conspiracy Claim**

16 As an initial matter, the Opposition fails to address the fact that Plaintiffs cannot plead  
 17 civil conspiracy as an independent cause of action. (*See* Mot. at 24.) Plaintiffs also fail to  
 18 address OpenAI’s argument that “agents and employees of a corporation cannot conspire with  
 19 their corporate principal or employer where they act in their official capacities,” nor can a  
 20 corporate parent and subsidiary conspire together. (*Id.* at 25.) Plaintiffs’ civil conspiracy claim  
 21 should be dismissed on those grounds alone.

22 In any event, Plaintiffs have not demonstrated that the allegations in the Complaint satisfy  
 23 the pleading standard courts impose to plead civil conspiracy. As stated in the Motion,  
 24 “[P]laintiff must more clearly allege *specific action on the part of each defendant* that  
 25 corresponds to the elements of a conspiracy cause of action” and “*cannot indiscriminately allege*  
 26 *that conspiracies existed between and among all defendants.*” (*Id.* at 24 (quoting *AccuImage*  
 27 *Diagnostics Corp. v. Terarecon, Inc.*, 260 F. Supp. 2d 941, 947-48 (N.D. Cal. 2003) (emphasis  
 28 added).) Plaintiffs claim they “specifically allege that Defendants have worked together to create

1 Copilot.” (Opp. at 24.) Those vague allegations, however, do not satisfy the substantial showing  
 2 required at the pleading stage, such as identifying the role of each Defendant in the formation of  
 3 the alleged conspiracy and the wrongful acts done by each Defendant. (*See* Mot. at 24.)

4 Further, while Plaintiffs dispute that a heightened pleading standard applies for their civil  
 5 conspiracy claim, their only authority is *Quinones v. Szorc*, 771 F.2d 289, 291 (7th Cir. 1985).  
 6 (*See* Opp. at 24, n.15.) That case, however, does not involve a civil conspiracy claim under  
 7 California law, as Plaintiffs raise here, and is not controlling.

8 **6. Plaintiffs Do Not Seriously Dispute That All Other Claims (Counts I**  
 9 **(§ 1202(a)), III, V, IX, and XII) Should Be Dismissed**

10 With respect to Plaintiffs’ claims under Section 1202(a) of the DMCA (Count I), for  
 11 tortious interference (Count III), for false designation of origin (Count V), and for violating the  
 12 CCPA (Count IX), Plaintiffs did not offer any argument in opposition to the OpenAI’s motion to  
 13 dismiss. (Opp. at 25, n.17.) Instead, they ask only for leave to amend. (*Id.*) With respect to  
 14 Plaintiffs’ declaratory relief claim (Count XII), Plaintiffs do not dispute that declaratory relief is  
 15 not an independent claim and merely argues in a heading without support that “Plaintiffs Have  
 16 Standing to Sue for Injunctive and Declaratory Relief.” (Opp. at 9.) Nowhere else in their  
 17 Opposition do Plaintiffs address declaratory relief.

18 Because Plaintiffs failed to oppose OpenAI’s arguments with respect to Plaintiffs’ claims  
 19 under Section 1202(a) of the DMCA, for tortious interference, for false designation of origin, for  
 20 violating the CCPA, and for declaratory relief (*see* Mot. at 15-17, 19-21, 25), all of these claims  
 21 should be dismissed. *See Jones v. Ghaly*, No. 21-CV-05828-JSW, 2022 WL 1128680, at \*2  
 22 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 15, 2022), appeal pending, No. 22-15749 (docketed May 17, 2022) (finding  
 23 “Plaintiff’s failure to oppose [Defendant’s] arguments as a concession that those claims should be  
 24 dismissed”); *McAfee*, 2011 WL 3293759, at \*2 (“By failing to oppose Defendant’s motion to  
 25 dismiss on the merits, Plaintiffs essentially concede that they fail to state claims . . .”).

26 **III. CONCLUSION**

27 For these reasons, OpenAI’s motion to dismiss should be granted.  
 28

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